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Brecon Borough Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1963.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall,Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 2884. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....S.Jinks,
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board,Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,Testamur of the Cardiff Technical College.

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Form 10

With the Compliments
of the Chairman

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
CATHAYS PARK
CARDIFF

Brecon Borough Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1963

Mr.Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Borough of Brecon during the year 1963.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/64(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....2868 acres.

Population.
Census 1931.....5332.
Census 1951.....6466.
Census 1961.....5797.
Estimated Midsummer 1963.....5800.

The Registrar General's estimates for the last ten years are shown below.

1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.	1963.
6150.	6180.	6190.	6370.	6080.	6460.	5680.	5780.	5830.	5800.

Inhabited Houses.The number of inhabited houses was 1855 giving an average per house of 3.1 persons.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate	44.	31.	75.	
Illegitimate	3.	1.	4.	
	47.	32.	79.	13.6

The corrected rate was 15.7
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.2
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district deathrate,which is a satisfactory feature.

Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.
	45.	47.	92.	15.8

The corrected rate was 14.0
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.2
The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but lower than the district birthrate.

Still Births.	Females.	Males.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live & still births.
	1.	0.	1.	12.5

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.3.
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Infant Deaths.There was one death registered during the year in a child of under one year of age.This child died when under one week old.

Total Mortality rate.....12.6
The rate for England and Wales was 20.9 which was higher than the Borough rate.

Maternal Deaths. There were no deaths which could be attributed to childbirth, which was an extremely satisfactory feature.
Maternal Mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis	Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis	Nil.
Cancer	11.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....45. Females.....47

	Males.	Females.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung	2	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2.
Other malignant neoplasms	0	4.
Vascular lesions, nervous system	10	11.
Coronary disease	10	6.
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2.
Other heart disease	7	13.
Other circulatory disease	2	2.
Influenza	0	1.
Pneumonia	1	0.
Bronchitis	4	2.
Other diseases, respiratory system	1	0.
Hyperplasia prostate	1	0.
Other defined causes	2	1.
Accidents, non motor vehicle	1	0.
Suicide	1	0.

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis and cancer in recent years.

	Cancer	Tuberculosis
1954	12	0.
1955	15	2.
1956	19	2.
1957	15	0.
1958	11	1.
1959	8	1.
1960	6	1.
1961	14	1.
1962	24	1.
1963	11	0.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers of the Council during the year. Mr. Jinks remained as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Cardiff Laboratory and any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was also performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Milk sampling was done by the Cardiff Laboratory, whilst the Brecon War Memorial Hospital made use of the Beck Laboratory, Swansea. The Cardiff laboratory was used for the examination of milk for the presence of tuberculosis.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the Borough, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. There is also the St. David's Hospital which deals with cases of chronic illness.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. Until the 31st. March, 1959, the Borough Council were responsible for the supply of water in their district. After this date the Council became a constituent member of the new South East Breconshire Water Board which is now responsible for the supply of water in the Borough.

Piped Supply. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 16 of those on the extreme borders have a tapped supply to the house. The 16 others have their own private supply.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the Borough is treated by downward filtration and the effluent finally passes into the River Usk. The effluent is unsatisfactory and the sewage works is unsuitable for the satisfactory treatment of the sewage.

The investigation into surface infiltration has been carried out by the Council's Consulting Engineers and final details of the new sewerage scheme and disposal works are now under preparation for submission to the Ministry. It is important that this work be proceeded with as quickly as possible as permission for future housing depends on the installation of the new scheme.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector in connection with drainage work.....110.

Closet Accommodation. The number of houses within the Borough unconnected with the sewerage system was 31.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the weekly collection and disposal of house refuse, this work being done by the Council under the supervision of your Surveyor. The refuse is disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. Jinks. At this juncture I must state that I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. This information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....64.
Number of complaints investigated.....64.
Number of premises inspected.....68.
Number of premises revisited.....16.
Number of preliminary notices served.....9.
for (a) Structural defects.....8.
(b) Sanitary defects.....1.
Number of tatutury Notices served.....1.

Result of Notices served.
Number completed.....9.
Number in hand of builder.....0.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district

Licensed Premises.
Number of licensed premises.....24.
Number of visits to such premises.....30.

Particular attention has been given to the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and proper washing facilities.

Details. Provision of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Number of premises with separate sanitary accommodation.....24.
Number of premises without separate sanitary accommodation.....0.
Number of premises with proper washing facilities.....24.
Number of premises without proper washing facilities.....0.

Shops.
Number of shops in the district.....152.
Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....49.

Factories.
Number of factories on the register.....35.
Number of inspections made.....30.
Number of defects found.....1.
Number of notices served.....1.
Number of defects remedied.....1.

Caravan Licences.
Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, 4 licences have been issued to allow land to be used as a caravan site.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

All premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very satisfactory.

Number of premises inspected.....2.
Number of premises disinfested.....2.

Rodent Control. One part-time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Details of Inspections and Treatments

	Premises			
	Business	Dwelling	Municipal	Agricultural
Number of inspections	241	1230	11	7.
Number infested	4	42	3	5.
a) Major infestations	0	0	1	0.
b) Minor infestations	4	42	2	5.
Number of treatments	6	47	9	6.

Sewer Treatment. During the year two maintenance treatments were carried out. Details are given below.

	1st. Treatment	2nd. Treatment
Number of manholes	182	182.
Number of manholes baited	19	17.
Number of prebait takes	12	8.

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Pet Animals Act,1951.

Number of licensed pet shops.....1.

Section 4. Housing.

1.Housing Need. Applicants for Council Houses.There is still a definite demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.It must be remembered that apart from the normal residents the demand is increased due to the fact that the town is a military and administrative centre for Government and other departments.The Council have received requests from the War Department and from the occupiers of a factory recently completed,for houses for key workers being transferred to Brecon.

Bearing in mind the standard laid down by the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health on the question of "Housing Need" in their report "Selection of Tenants" and with particular reference to their standard for overcrowding based on bedroom deficiency the Council's waiting list showed the following details.

Type of Applicant	Total	Residing in Borough	From outside Borough
Without separate accommodation and bedroom deficiency	5	5	0
Without separate accommodation	4	3	1
T.B.Applicants	0	0	0
From Slum List	7	7	0
Substandard houses with bedroom deficiency	15	11	4
Other applicants without amenities in home	15	15	0
Other applicants	47	24	23
Caravans	5	5	0
Totals	98	70	28

Applications for Bungalows

Without separate accommodation	10	7	3
In slum houses	2	2	0
In houses without amenities	16	13	3
In large houses	22	14	8
Totals	50	36	14

Housing Consolidated Regulations,Article 31.

1.The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....58.
2.The number of houses the defects in which were remedied inconsequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....10.
3.The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to
(a)the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or
(b)the making of demolition or closing orders.....2.
4.The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....0.
5.The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....1.

6. Number of demolition or closing orders.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking under sub-section 3 of section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 was accepted.....1.
8. The number of houses demolished.....0.

Allocation of Houses.
During the year the following letting of houses took place:-

For General Needs and Relettings.	Ffynnon Dewi	1
	Adelaide Gardens	1
	Brynawelon	1
	Ffynnon Dewi Bungalows	1
	Coryton Close (Reema)	5
	Dorlangoch	1

Post War Housing.

1. By Borough Council	Ffynnon Dewi	64 houses
a) Houses completed	No. of 4 bedrooms	6
	No. of 3 bedrooms	52
	No. of 2 bedrooms	6
	Adelaide Gardens	51 houses
	No. of 4 bedrooms	4
	No. of 3 bedrooms	38
	No. of bungalows	9
	Bryn de Winton	40 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	40
	Coryton Close	24 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	24
	Coryton Close (Reema)	48 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	48
	Brynawelon	22 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	22
	Ffynnon Dewi	
	No. of 1 bedroom bungalows	16

b) Future Housing.
1. The Council have received approval for the construction of the following dwellings:-
   a. 36 houses at Coryton Close
   b. 10 bungalows at Walnut Square

2. The Council are negotiating for land at The Watton and surplus Railway land for the erection of aged persons bungalows. Appended list of persons on the waiting list indicates the need for more one bedroom bungalows.

3. The Ministry has indicated that permission for future house building will depend upon the early completion of the new sewage scheme and disposal works.

By Private Enterprise.
Total number of houses erected in the year.....8.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Number of houses approved for Discretionary Grants.....10.
Number of applications approved for Standard Grants.....2.

Housing Inspections by Public Health Inspector.
Number of house to house inspections.....89.
Number of visits to Council houses.....98.

Brecon Borough Council

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of registered dairies in the Borough.....6.
Number of distributors licensed by Borough Council.....8.
Number of producer/distributors in Borough.....0.
Number of producer/distributors from Rural District.....1.
Total number distributing in Borough.....9.

Record of Inspections.

Number of visits to dairies.....24.

Meat.

There is a slaughterhouse in the Borough which is sufficient to meet the demands of the district and neighbourhood. The slaughterhouse has been leased to the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, but all its facilities are available to local butchers.

The Meat Regulations 1963. The above regulations came into operation on the 1st.October 1963.The regulations require all meat to be inspected and marked when fit for human consumption.Complete inspection had been carried out prior to these regulations but the meat marking is a new innovation.The Council have made the following charges for meat inspection:-

2s.0d.	per cattle
6d.	per calf
6d.	per pig
4d.	per sheep or lamb

Meat Inspections.

Number of inspections.....571.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole and Part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1287	4	60	10911	293	-
Number inspected	1287	4	60	10911	293	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	2	1	14	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	233	1	2	593	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerci	18.1	75.0	5.0	5.6	7.5	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.1	-

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It is interesting to note that this is the fourth year that no tuberculosis has been found in Cattle. The incidence has been decreasing rapidly in the post war years and it is pleasing to report this evidence of the success of the Ministry's campaign in the eradication of Bovine T.B.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Cysticerci						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Weight Condemned of Home Killed Meat in lbs.weight for T.B.						
Whole carcases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcases	-	-	-	-	96	-
Organs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	96	-
For Other Diseases						
Whole carcases	-	863	20	415	-	-
Part carcases	292	-	-	275	32	-
Organs	2474	12	11	2378	84	-
	2766	875	31	3068	116	-

Other Foods.

Type of Food Premises	Number	Inspections	Notices	No.registered under Sec14 F. & D.Act 1938
Cafe/Restaurant	20	23	-	-
Grocers	25	20	-	-
Butchers	8	19	-	8
Wet Fish	2	6	-	-
Fried Fish	3	12	-	-
Greengrocers	6	14	-	-
Sweets	7	8	-	-
Bakehouses	4	17	-	-
Icecream producer/ Retailers	-	-	-	-
Icecream Retailers	45	32	-	45
School Canteens	8	5	-	-

Other Foods Condemned.

Number of tins condemned.....235.
Number of lbs. of other foods condemned.....656.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Frequent inspections have been made of food premises and improvement affected in a number of premises.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

1. The Borough Council require users of the slaughterhouse to inform them where meat is disposed. Meat is stained with a green vegetable dye and disposed of to a processing firm or by burying in tip.
2. Condemned tins etc. are disposed of by burying in the Council tip.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified to me during the year:-

Scarlet Fever.....1 case.
Measles.....73 cases.

The district,as seen,experienced quite a severe epidemic of measles during the year.It commended in the middle of June and continued until the end of August with the peak period in July.
The only case admitted to hospital was the one of scarlet fever.
No deaths occurred as a result of these infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease.The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital,Swansea for the treatment of these cases.The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....41.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....3.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....5.
Number of cases removed as left district.....3.
Number of deaths during the year.....0.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....36.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.	1963.
2.	6.	5.	8.	6.	11.	8.	10.	5.	3.

Of these 3 cases, 1 was a transfer from another district.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1963 FOR THE BOROUGH OF BRECON IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act,1937

Part 1 of the Act

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i.Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4,and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	7	7	-	-
ii.Factories not included in(i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	23	-	-
iii.Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	35	30	-	-

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2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health